(b) whether it is a fact that the machines with a capacity of less than 35,000 copies per hour only were allowed to be imported under the said policy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Traders Pvt. Ltd. had imported 14 printing units of higher capacity than permissible under the policy period of 1984-85; and

(d) whether such an import is in violation of the relevant import policy; if so, what action has been taken against the said firm?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) 21 types of printing machines were permitted for import under the Open General Licence during the import policy period 1984-85. Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to Entry No. 12(18) of Appendix-1 Part-B of Import Export Policy, 1984-85 which reads as under:—

"Web-fed high speed letter press rotary and Offset rotary printing machines having output of more than 35,000 composite impressions or copies per hour".

Printing machines with capacity more than 35,000 composite impression or copies per hour were allowed under Open General Licence subject to the Actual User Conditions laid down therein.

(c) Government have not received any such information. In the absence of complete address of the firm, it is not possible to verify the facts in this regard.

(d) Question does not arise.

Annual Imports of aluminium and steel

1647. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average annual import of aluminium and special steel by the MMTC in terms of tonnes and value;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the 100 per cent export-oriented units, the production cost of the unit would normally be at par with the international production cost; and

(c) whether Government have considered to establish 100 per cent E.O.U. by MMTC or other public sector undertakings to serve as the captive unit for meeting the import needs of the MMTC in respect of the above two items, especially in view of ample availability of these two ores in India; if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Annual average import of aluminium and steel by MMTC in terms of quality and value is given below:—

	Qty. (in metric tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
Aluminium . .	39,729	6,183
Steel . . .	6,14,201	25,756

(b) Due to the grant of certain incentives to 100 per cent export-oriented units, it is expected that their cost of production is such as to render the products competitive in the international market. However, since cost of production would depend on several variables such as labour wages, overheads, economies of scale etc., it is not possible to say that product costs in export-oriented units would normally be at par with international production costs.

(c) No, Sir. The question of setting up of 100 per cent EOU for production of special steel & aluminium and meeting the import needs of the MMTC for these two items are entirely unrelated. 100 per cent EOUs are meant only for exports. With the increase in indigenous capacity for production of aluminium, India is expected to be a surplus producer of aluminium in 1988-89, and there will be no need for imports. As regards setting up of unit to produce special steel,

the same would depend on availability of resources for investment in this area keeping in view overall needs of the country.

Welfare of freedom fighters

1648. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the welfare of old and incapacitafed freedom fighters;

(b) whether homes for old freedom fighters and incapacitated freedom fighters have been established by the Central Government;

(c) if so, what are the details of homes and facilities extended to such freedom fighters; and

(d) what are the future plans of Government to set up "Freedom Fighter's Home" for the benefit of majority of the old and incapacitated freedom fighters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Apart from the sanction of pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme Government is also providing to freedom fighters free medical aid in Central Government Hospitals. In addition to above, many State Governments & U. T. Admns. have formulated their own schemes for welfare of freedom fighters.

(b) and (c) Government of India have set up 2 Freedom Fighters Homes, one in Delhi and the other in Pondicherry for old and incapacitated freedom fighters. At present there are nine rooms in Freedom Fighters Home located at Baba Kharag Singh Marg, New Delhi. Each freedom fighter admitted to the Home is required to contribute a portion of his pension (presently it is Rs. 100/-) to meet part of the recurring expenditure incurred on his diet, medical treatment, transport & Laundry facilities etc.

(d) Keeping in view the limited rooms in Freedom Fighters Home at New Delhi, Central Government has already requested State Govts. & U. T. Admns. to set up such Homes in their capitals. Some of the State Govts. have set up such Homes.

Conference of environmentalists at Bhopal

1649. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of Environmentalists was held recently at Bhopal on the issue of ecological problems;

(b) if so, what recommendations were made by the Conference;

(c) whether it is a fact that a special study has been made on sub-human living conditions prevailing in Bangalore, Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras and other big cities of the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. An Environment Congress with the "Wetland and Wastelands of India" as its theme was held in Bhopal during December 29-30, 1986.

(b) As intimated by the Organisers, the Congress adopted the following resolutions:—

(i) Drawing up a 40-year Environmental Balance Sheet indicating both successes and failures in the sustainable management of the life support systems of land, water, flora, fauna and the atmosphere.

(ii) Organisation of Forum of Environmental Journalists and Communicators for the purpose of fostering the growth of journalism and communication.

(iii) Undertaking of detailed studies of a few selected urban habitates with particular reference to the problems arising from the growth of slums and sub-human living conditions so as to find solutions to this growing problem.